

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 08302 311212Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 HEW-04 OES-07 EB-07
AF-10 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 472

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNICEF

SUBJECT: UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (MANILA): PLENARY

REF: MANILA 7534

1. PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND RELATED MATTERS DEBATE ITEMS 3 AND 4 OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORTIVE OF UNICEF ROLE IN PROMOTION OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE. NO NEW ISSUES RAISED BUT SEVERAL DELEGATIONS (INDIA, NEPAL, FINLAND) STRESSED NEED FOR EXPANDED IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM. ONLY CRITICAL NOTE WAS INDONESIA COMMENT ON THE ABANDONMENT OF MALARIA PROGRAMS AND A PLEA FOR MORE ATTENTION TO PREPARATORY MEETINGS FOR ALMA ATA PHC CONFERENCE. SECRETARIAT STRESSED NEED FOR MAINTAINING BALANCE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT ACTIONS AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND ACKNOWLEDGED NEED FOR MORE EXCHANGES WITH OTHER MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL AGENCIES.

2. ITEM 4 - EXTERNAL AID FOR PRIMARY AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION. CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION ON PRIORITIES, WITH MOST DELEGATIONS SUPPORTING SECRETARIAT THRUST OF CONTINUING ASSISTANCE TO PRIMARY EDUCATION AND NEED FOR INCREASED ATTENTION TO NON-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 MANILA 08302 311212Z

FORMAL EDUCATION. CANDID RENEWED PREVIOUS YEAR'S PLEA FOR GREATER CONCENTRATION ON PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN AND SUGGESTED BOARD WORKING GROUP TO RE-EXAMINE UNICEF POLICY ON EDUCATION AND NUTRITION. NEW ELEMENTS IN DISCUSSION WERE SWISS SUGGESTION FOR MORE ATTENTION TO NON-WESTERN EDUCATIONAL FORMS SUCH AS KORANIC SCHOOLS AND COLUMBIAN SUGGESTION FOR SOME ATTENTION TO PROBLEMS OF THE GIFTED CHILD. BOTH SUGGESTIONS

ACCEPTED BY SECRETARIAT. US INTERVENTION FOCUSED ON NEED TO CONTINUE AND ENLARGE SCOPE OF THE STUDY, INCLUDING AN EVALUATION OF UNICEF'S EXPERIENCE AND PERHAPS INVOLVING ALSO OTHER AGENCIES IN THE EFFORT. SECRETARIAT ACCEPTED SUGGESTIONS FOR FOLLOW-ON STUDY BUT EXPECTED IT MIGHT NOT BE READY BEFORE 1979 BOARD MEETING.

3. INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD (ITEM F). IYC DISCUSSION COMMENCED SLOWLY AND WITH NO SUBSTANTIVE INPUT. DELEGATES RESPONDED WITH MORE ENTHUSIASM AND IDEAS AFTER LABOISSE STRESSED BOARD'S REPRESENTATION FOR THE IYC. PROGRESS REPORT FOR C/ICEF/L 1359 WAS ENDORSED. FRG AND OTHERS SAID SUFFICIENT FUNDS MUST BE PLEDGED (AND ANNOUNCED \$50,000 FOR THE YEAR). US SPOKE BRIEFLY ENDORSING THE REPORT, THE YEAR AND THE SLOGAN, THE CHILD AND THE FAMILY. DID NOT REFER TO FUNDING. GENERALLY LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WERE STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE. SOME DEVELOPED COUNTRIES COMMITTED BUT CAUTIOUS. PHILIPPINES ESPECIALLY MADE LONG POSITIVE INTERVENTION REQUESTING THAT THEIR SUGGESTION FOR "DECADE OF CHILD" BE NOTED.

4. FUND RAISING (ITEM 6) GENERAL DEBATE ON THE FUND RAISING ITEM REFLECTED THE DESIRE OF MOST DELEGATIONS TO RETAIN THE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION CHARACTER OF UNICEF AND TO MAINTAIN PRIVATE INTEREST IN IT. THE PHILIPPINES PROPOSED AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES ON THE BOARD, AND THEY INTEND TO PURSUE THEIR PROPOSAL AT ECOSOC. (THEY HAD A FIGURE OF 54 MEMBERS AS THE LEVEL OF EXPANSION). LABOISSE'S COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL WAS THAT WHILE THERE MIGHT BE AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MANILA 08302 311212Z

ADVANTAGE IN AN EXPANSION, THE INCREASE SHOULD BE MANAGEABLE AND DESIGNED TO ATTRACT THOSE NOT NOW ACTUALLY PARTICIPATING (OPEC) AND 54 MEMBERS WOULD BE MUCH TOO LARGE. WHILE DELEGATIONS MADE GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE COMMENTS ABOUT THE CREATION OF A TEMPORARY WORKING GROUP TO ASSIST THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN FUND RAISING, THERE WERE RESERVATIONS ABOUT ITS SCOPE OF WORK AND WHETHER IT WOULD REMAIN "TEMPORARY". A SWEDISH PROPOSAL FOR MULTI-LATERAL CONSULTATION AMONG DONORS WAS NOT ENDORSED BY OTHER DONORS, ALTHOUGH IT MAY REAPPEAR; THEIR 3 YEAR PROGRAMMING/FINANCING CYCLE PROPOSAL WAS DESCRIBED BY THE SECRETARIAT AS "PROVOCATIVE" AND WILL BE STUDIED, BUT GENERALLY GOT MIXED REVIEWS; DEVELOPING COUNTRIES DID SUPPORT THE SWEDISH PROPOSAL THAT THE UNICEF SECRETARIAT PROVIDE THE NEXT BOARD WITH TABLES WHICH COMPARED GNP PER CAPITA INCOME CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNICEF ON A PER CAPITA BASIS AND PERCENTAGE OF ODA. ALSO SUPPORTED WAS THE PROPOSAL TO HAVE FUND RAISING A PERMANENT AGENDA ITEM FOR THE BOARD. USDEL (HERTER) DELIVERED STATEMENT WHICH ENCOMPASSED POINTS RAISED IN POSITION PAPER AS WELL AS TAKING OPPORTUNITY TO

SUPPORT PRINCIPLES OF PREFERENCE FOR GENERAL RESOURCES CONTRIBUTIONS, BENEFITS TO UNICEF IF FUNDS CAN BE SPENT WHEREVER THEY BUY THE MOST, AND MADE PASSING REFERENCE TO US IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS TO COUNTER SOME OF SWEDISH SELF-CONGRATULATION. (COPY POUCHED WING).

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Decapton Note:
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